

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 020830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3812

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AO RW

SUBJECT: RWANDA AND MPLA NON-RECOGNITION

REF: KIGALI 757

1. RWANDAN STATEMENTS - RADIO RWANDA AND AGENCE RWANDAISE PRESSE CARRIED BRIEF ITEM DEC 31 ON FONMIN - US AMB MEETING REPORTED REFTEL. STATEMENT NOTED DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED NEWLY-NAMED AF ASST SEC SCHAUFELE WHO CURRENTLY MAKING TOUR CERTAIN AFRICAN CAPITALS AS WELL AS THE "PREOCCUPying QUESTION OF ANGOLA". PRESS SAID THAT "CHIEF RWANDAN DIPLOMACY REAFFIRMED POSITION OF OUR COUNTRY (ON ANGOLA) -- A POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATIONS ON TWO OCCASIONS" (I.E. NON-RECOGNITION AND NEED FOR GOVT NAT'L UNION - ED.). US AMB OUTLINED USG VIEWS ON ANGOLAN PROBLEM. IN NEW YEAR SPEECH, PRES HABYARIMANA ALSO REFERRED BRIEFLY TO ANGOLA EXPRESSING HOPE "... ANGOLAN PEOPLE WOULD COME TO UNDERSTAND THEIR TRUE LIBERATION WOULD BE FOUND IN NATIONAL PEACE AND UNITY".

2. BURUNDI VISIT - BURUNDI FONMIN ARRIVED KIGALI DEC 31 BEARING PRES MICOMBERO MESSAGE TO PRES HABYARIMANA. RADIO
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RWANDA REPORTERS POSED UNUSUALLY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AS

FOLLOW: (A) WAS BURUNDI RECOGNITION ANGOLA IN INTEREST OAU AND ANGOLA?, (B) WHY DOES GOB NOT CONSIDER USSR AND CUBAN PRESENCEANGOLA AS "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE"?, AND (C) WHAT REPERCUSSIONS WILL GOB ACTION HAVE ON TRIPARTITE (BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE)? BURUNDI FONMIN MADE RESPONSE ALONG LINES NOTED BURUNDI 896 EMPHASIZING SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE. RE USSR-CUBA, HE NOTED USSR HAS "ALWAYS AIDED AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" AND IS IN ANGOLA AT "REQUEST MPLA" WHICH IS "DEFENDING INTERESTS ANGOLA PEOPLE". ON TRIPARTITE, HE NOTED TWICE (AND SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY) THAT BURUNDI HAD "ATTEMPTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE" TO INFORM ITS NEIGHBORS IN ADVANCE OF DECISION, BUT ENDED BY SAYING "IN AN EFFECTIVE SENSE, WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS (ACT) WILL COMPROMISE OUR TRIPARTITE RELATIONS SINCE WE DID (SIC) INFORM OUR NEIGHBORS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DECISION".

3. COMMENT: RWANDAN PRESS STATEMENT ON US AMB PRESENTATION ENCOURAGING IN VIEW SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE BETWEEN RWANDA AND ITS NEIGHBORS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND BURUNDI DID NOT RPT NOT INFORM RWANDA (OR ZAIRE) IN ADVANCE. IT IS ASSUMED MICOMBERO MESSAGE IS EFFORT ASSUAGE RWANDAN IRE AT UNEXPECTED BURUNDI ACTION. GOR PUBLIC COMMENTS REINFORCE ASSESSMENT REFTEL RWANDA WILL NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA PRIOR OAU SESSIONS. FRITTS

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